

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1926.

The second meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1927 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Thursday, September 16, 1926.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Lowbray,
Mr. Medary,
Mr. Taft,
Mr. Garfield,
also Mr. H. P. Cramerer,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 2:50 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS: The minutes of the meetings held June 17, 1926, and July 7, 1926, were approved.

2. LIEUTENANT JOHN FITCH MEMORIAL: The Commission considered a design submitted by the Assistant Secretary of War, Colonel Hanford McNider, for the Lieutenant John Fitch Memorial, which contemplates placing a bronze tablet on the monument. The Commission objected to this and called attention to the report made to the Quartermaster General with reference to this memorial on May 1, 1926, to the effect that no bronze tablet should be placed on stone. It was noted that in the revised design of the tablet that the pediment had been omitted.

The Commission adhered to their former decision in this matter, and a report was submitted to the Assistant Secretary of War accordingly (Exhibit A).

3. JOHN ADAMS AND MR. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS MEMORIAL: Under date of September 13, 1926, the Commission received from the Quartermaster General a design for a memorial to John Adams and John Quincy Adams, to be erected at Quincy, Mass.,

authorized by an Act approved March 4, 1925 (43 Stat., 1502). The design consisted of a bronze tablet, 9' 8" at the base, to be placed on a boulder. The War Department advised that Bruce W. Saville, sculptor, a native of Quincy, had been selected for the work. A sum not to exceed \$5,000 has been appropriated by Congress for this memorial, which is to be in commemoration of "Quincy's 300th Anniversary".

In the consideration of the design Mr. Garfield said that, if you are sinking a bronze plate into a block of stone, the design of the bronze plate should be framed in entirely rather than have something in the nature of a cornice, as suggested by the design, which is an indication that it is projecting. Mr. Taft said that placing a tablet on a boulder cheapens a design, but that he knew Mr. Saville and a satisfactory design could be expected of him.

The Commission approved the composition of the design, but objected to the boulder. The Commission recommended that the monument be done in stone and that a more complete sketch be submitted (Exhibit B).

4. POLICE STATION NO. 14: Mr. A. L. Harris, Municipal Architect, submitted a design for a new Police Station, No. 14, Berkeleyton. The design called for a Georgian type of building. The Commission recommended simplification of the tower and the portico.

5. MEADE MEMORIAL: By letter of August 26, 1926, Major U. S. Grant 36, Executive Officer of the Meade Memorial Commission, requested that the Commission of Fine Arts inspect the Meade Memorial.

The Commission considered the Meade Memorial with Mr. A. B. Simon, one of the architects of the Memorial, and Mr. C. F. Brewer, contractor, who stated that the work had not been completed; that the walks and curbing connected with the completion of the panel in which the memorial is located have not been

completed, nor has the Bartholdi Fountain been removed. The contract provides that this work shall be done without expense to the United States, whereas if the Memorial is dedicated now it would relieve the State of Pennsylvania from further obligation in the matter.

The Commission inspected the Memorial in the afternoon and found the work progressing, but that the Memorial had not been completed, as above stated. The Commission therefore decided that the work should be complete before the Memorial is dedicated (Exhibit C).

6. UNIFORM FLAG DISPLAY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Mr. Thomas B. Landreau, Chairman, and Mr. Charles H. Riley, member, of the Joint Committee, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, were present and considered further with the Commission the project of the proposed Uniform Flag Display in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Landreau stated that nothing further had been done in the matter of providing an improved design of flagpole and that he understood the designs that have been submitted are not satisfactory to the Commission. Mr. Landreau said it is the desire of his Committee to secure a design that will be satisfactory to the Commission, and something his Committee can be proud of, so that the people will have more respect for the flag; but that for the present they prefer to hold the matter in abeyance.

The Commission advised that this subject of Street Decoration should be carefully studied by an artist proficient in the art of pageantry. Mr. Moore suggested that consideration be given also to the display of flags from windows. Attention was called to the magnificent display of flags at St. Mark's, Venice, and the flagpoles in front of the Union Station; also to the new lamp posts that have been erected in the District of Columbia, which will permit of an attachment

for pennants. A report was made to Mr. Landreau, informing him of the recommendations of the Commission in this matter (Exhibit D).

7. "SMOKE NUISANCE" IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Mr. E. P. Hood, Chief Mechanical Engineer, Bureau of Mines, Department of Commerce, discussed with the Commission the problem of "Smoke Nuisance" in the District of Columbia. The subject had arisen in connection with the location of the power plant of the new McKinley Manual Training High School, at Second and C Streets, N.W., and now required attention in connection with the new Public Buildings program. Attention was called to the controversy on this subject some years ago when Mr. W. C. Leachoo, Secretary of the Treasury, was interested in a central Heating, Lighting and Power Plant.

Mr. Moore stated that he had written to Major Grant, under date of July 22, 1936, on the subject, as follows:

"In connection with the new public buildings program and the necessity of heating and lighting the buildings about to be constructed, I wonder if you have thought of a central lighting and heating plant such as is used for the Capitol group. Congress enacted legislation some time ago for a building to be located at the upper end of the Washington Channel. Notwithstanding the protests of the Commission of Fine Arts, that legislation was carried through and a building was authorized. Tunnels were constructed, but the plant itself, owing to the exigencies of the war and I believe also to the inability of securing proper funds for a building on the site proposed, was not erected. The Commission of Fine Arts at that time recognized the desirability of a central heating and lighting plant for the government buildings, which would do away with I believe 17 separate heating and lighting plants. The Commission favor the location of such a heating and lighting plant in the area north of Water Street, where the necessarily awkward shape of the plant could be hidden by the storage warehouses and other like buildings in that area. Would it be too much trouble to have the tunnel system, as then constructed under the Treasury Department, examined and a report on the situation made to the Commission, with any suggestions that may occur to you in connection with a new plant.

The central plant of the Potomac Electric Power Company comes within the area to be occupied by public buildings, and it may be worth while considering whether that plant should be taken over or whether an entirely new plant should be constructed."

The letter was referred by Major Grant to the Supervising Architect, who

replied under date of September 13, 1926, that---

"--Shortly after the war an analysis was made by this office as to whether in view of the enormous advance in the cost of labor and material it would be economical to proceed with the construction of the Central Heating, Lighting, and Power Plant, and the conclusion was that the project was no longer an economical proposition. Since the passage of the Public Buildings Act this office has again considered the proposition and has reached the same conclusion, particularly in regard to the supply of electric current.--" (Exhibit B)

Mr. Hood said in this country smokeless combustion has not been made a primary requirement. The question ~~problem~~ of crowding into a limited space, getting along with stack and draft conditions that are a minimum, has been emphasized rather than requirements that will produce smokeless combustion. Of course it would be a nice thing if all our coal were anthracite, but it is not, so we have to meet a practical situation. Here in the District of Columbia the Bureau of Mines has been studying the problem for the last three or four years. We have a young engineer who is very good, and who is going around from plant to plant at the instance of the Bureau of the Budget. We have no power, we simply inquire about smoke complaints and then make our recommendations, but I think we have a pretty good view of what the actual condition is here in the District; in a great number of plants here improved methods cannot be adopted, they have not the equipment nor room. Therefore our desire is to get support for a national treatment of the problem; that is, when a new plant is put in that ought to be adequate from a smokeless point of view.

Mr. Moore informed Mr. Hood that the Commission has a situation in point for consideration--the power plant of the new McKinley Manual Training High School. There has been protest about its location because of smoke.

Mr. Hood replied the trouble here in the District of Columbia is they don't follow us exactly; they keep putting in things that will smoke. The post office on Pennsylvania Avenue is an old illustration. They appealed to the Bureau of Mines to make some temporary adjustment, but the heating plant is entirely too inadequate to get real good combustion. Now they want a new plant. We have been figuring it over to advise them. But as the other buildings are being built some one must study the problem of heating the new buildings, and the Post Office Department is a part of them. Thereupon Mr. Moore read the letter from the Acting Supervising Architect, heretofore mentioned.

Mr. Hood said it is found that smokelessness depends on skill and care of the fireman, and so far as the Government is concerned, the Government pays the lowest wages for firemen in the District of Columbia, so that the Government gets the most inexperienced people to fire furnaces. No mechanical equipment will offset a poor grade of intelligence. The only thing for that would mean anthracite to do the work, and that is out of the question. It does take a little careful oversight; that it can be done is illustrated by the same old post office. The Chief Clerk was arrested for violating the smoke law and it was brought out at the trial that it was a question of management on the part of the fireman. His margin is very narrow, but it can be done. In other words where a plant is well equipped they can violate numerous laws, burn carelessly, and still "get away with it". I have advocated here in the District of Columbia

some sort of organization that would keep after plants,--that would give certain careful oversight and keep them tuning up. That is exactly what large organizations will do; that is what the engineers do. They hang around to the plants to investigate and make report, and their recommendations count. This is not the problem of the official smoke inspector; he is only an official observer. He may be unable to say why it smokes and advise as to what ought to be done. The place to apply our efforts is in the new plants. If the equipment goes in wrong then you are doomed, and it is because so many plants are being equipped thoughtlessly that there is so much trouble. Give them room, draft, reasonable oversight, then they can be worked smokelessly. It has been done, it is being done, and from a technical point of view. I used to be in the first wing, on the Eighteenth Street side of this building, and could look over to the State, War and Navy building. Columns of black smoke would rise,--what was the trouble? The fireman busy, steam would go down; he had a number of things to do, then pull coal on a very hot fire,--frankly that is carelessness. We tell that man he is careless; he resents it, but he is. If he is on his job he can operate there and can operate without smoke. In some of the plants it is very difficult to start a fire even with high grade skill. Take a plant where the fire has to be started every day, it ought not to exist.

Continuing, Mr. Wood said, as we look over the situation here we are very much of the opinion that Washington must learn to use fuel which is available from the natural tributary to this District. To stress simply the use of hard coal, while it sounds good it will not work. So we must use this medium coal from West Virginia, the Potomates and the North River, and Clearfield Coal from Pennsylvania, running from 13 to 24 per cent. volatile. Washington is rather favorably located as regards the medium coal. It can be used easier than Illinois or Pittsburgh coal. We have a large smoke problem in Saint Louis; that is one of the hardest places to clean up. People leave the city to get away from the smoke. It is true of all our cities.

Mr. Wood asked if the Bureau of Mines had arranged for a set of specifications. Mr. Wood replied: "I cannot say so. Every plant is a problem in itself. That we need is larger combustion space. There has been a conventional setting of boilers in the East. That Illinois coal, it requires about one-half the amount of space as the Pittsburgh coal. It is the difference in the amount of combustion of the volatile matter. For a plant of any size we shall have mechanical stokers, which are highly developed now. We have boiler interesting study in the case of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. They are limited in the arrangement; they can't dig down, they can't extend their furnace, so they had to get in a stoker. We had quite a problem at Walter Reed Hospital. They were threatened with having to get along with the old boilers and winter approaching, while new boilers were being held up by the courts in litigation proceedings. Now as a practical matter, take the boiler plant in the new McKinley Manual Training High School; the Municipal Architect should get the right kind of a plant in that school, specify smokelessness as a prime requirement; get head room enough for combustion, from 25 to 30 feet.

Mr. Redary said, I have been thinking and listening. It seems to me there ought to be a definite program for the future. Mr. Wood replied, there are four requisites:

- (1) space enough for equipment;
- (2) proper kind of equipment;
- (3) skill and personal qualifications to operate;
- (4) efficient oversight.

The secretary stated that he had secured for the Commission smoke laws and regulations from several of the leading cities of the country:--New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Boston, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis, including the District of Columbia smoke law; that a careful reading of them revealed to him the fact that other cities than Washington specify more in detail the requirements for regulating the "smoke nuisances". Mr. Hood said he did not think the District of Columbia smoke law adequate.

Mr. Hood emphasized the importance of having city councils and the people support smoke laws. In Pittsburgh, he said, it was at one time entirely abolished by the city council because it figured in some local affairs, but was soon thereafter reenacted on request of the people.

Mr. Hood said: "For Washington I think we ought to have the group heating plants. These different new buildings grouped give an excellent opportunity for treatment of lighting and heating together. You can get lighting cheaper than heating and save several thousand dollars a year; that is an engineering question. I think it is well recognized. The Government in the new grouping of buildings should study the lighting and heating as a single problem. We are very much concerned about conditions here. Washington is a beautiful city, and the smoke problem should be controlled. The Society of Steam Engineers have tried if they could not formulate standard smoke ordinances; certain points should be considered. The Committee's work has been used as the basis for quite a number of smoke ordinances."

Mr. Moore asked Mr. Hood to send over to the Commission of Fine Arts a copy and any modifications of it which should be made for the District of Columbia:--"If you do that perhaps you can do nothing better for the District of Columbia". Mr. Hood said the difficulty here in the Department is, when it comes to recommending a boiler plant, the fireman, an inexperienced man, makes his suggestion, he sends his report to the Chief Clerk, and the Chief Clerk to the Department head. The fireman not being of the first class makes a short estimate, but the report goes to the Bureau of the Budget, and there they cut still further, and so the plant is bound to be wrong from the start. There should be more complete oversight of furnaces and boiler plants in the District of Columbia.

The Commission expressed their appreciation of this discussion with Mr. Hood and said it will be helpful in considering the smoke problem in connection with the new public buildings program.

6. AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS IN EUROPE: Major E. M. Price, Secretary, accompanied by Mr. James E. Langton, Chief Clerk, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, submitted informally for the consideration of the Commission designs for chapels for the American Cemeteries in Europe, as follows:

1. Boume (Bony), 3 schemes, by Mellon Neils and Howe, Philadelphia.
2. Thimourart, 3 sheets, by Thomas Harlan Ellett, 101 Park Ave., New York.
3. Mareth, Belgium (Flanders Field), schemes A, B and C, by Dr. Cret, and block plan of center scheme, showing location.

4. Deming. Schemes A, B and C, by York and Sawyer, New York; 4 blue-prints and plot plan.
5. Little Marie (Belleau Wood), 5 blue-prints, by Crain and Ferguson, Boston,
 1. Schemes A and B
 2. Plan and two sections of A
 3. Elevations of A
 4. Plan and sections of B
 5. Elevations of B

Gise Misne (Pere en T. L. L. L.), Scheme A and B, 4 blue-prints:

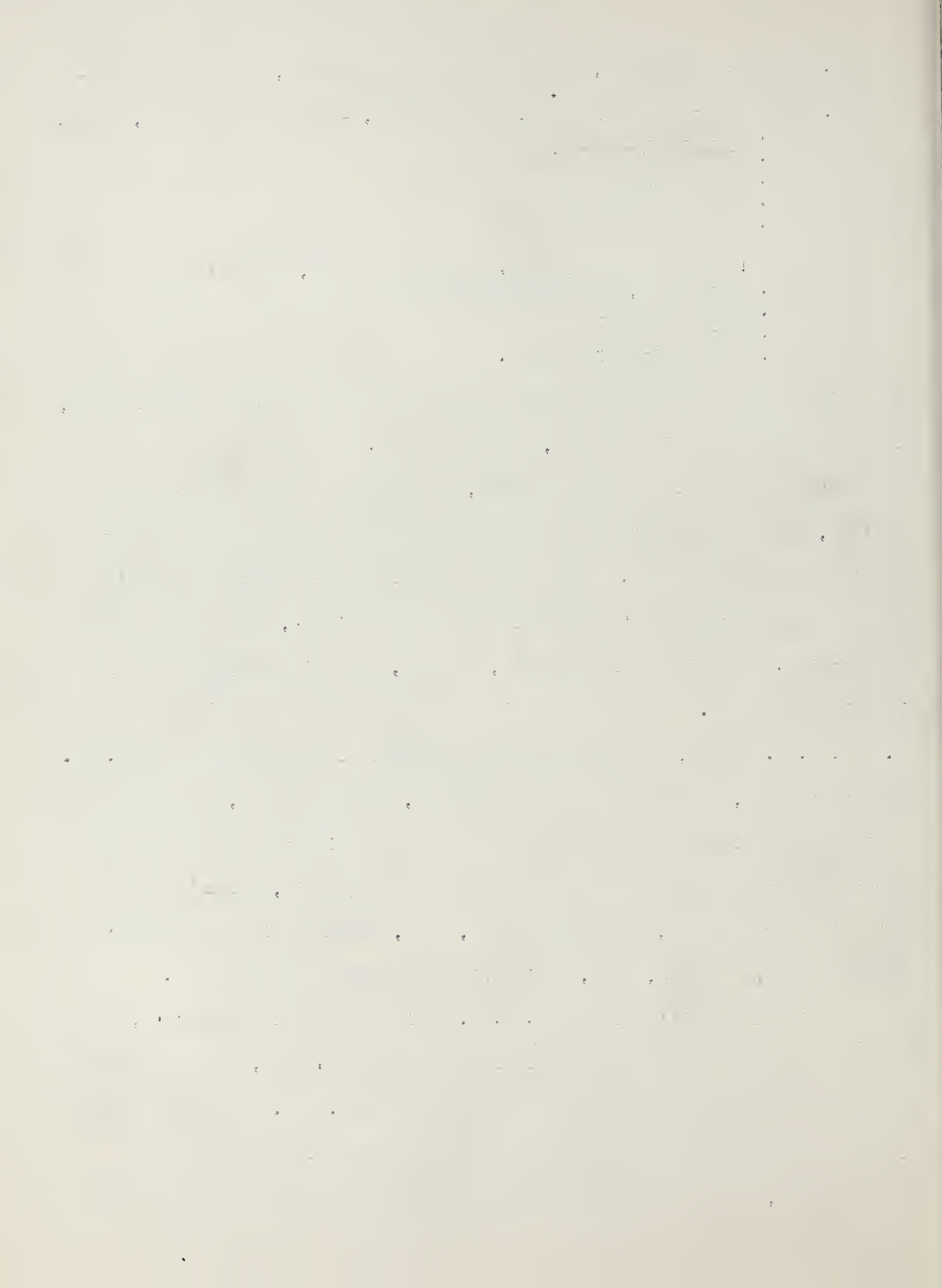
1. Elevations, Plan and Sections of A
2. Plan and Section of B
3. Elevations of B
4. Perspective of A and B.

Also latest photographs of these cemeteries and a book of views of them, including Suresnes and Brookwood, were submitted.

The Commission inspected the plans, but took no action with reference to them, and decided that they would receive especial attention at the next meeting of the Commission. Major Price stated that the Battle Monuments Commission had requested two sketches from each designer, from which to make a selection. Designs for monuments, he said, are being prepared and will be submitted later.

3. G. A. R. TABLET, ARLINGTON MEMORIAL THEATER: In company with Lieut. Col. Robert Sterritt, Quartermaster Supply Officer, War Department, the Commission visited the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater with a view to selecting a site for the proposed tablet of the Grand Army of the Republic, which has been authorized by Congress, approved June 18, 1926, commemorating the Order of General Logan, of May 5, 1868, designating May 30th as Memorial Day.

Colonel Sterritt said the G. A. R. desires the wall of the stage, so that the tablet would face the audience in the Amphitheater, but he thought this location might be considered rather conspicuous. Mr. Hedberg said that in his opinion this would be a tablet of considerable importance in the Amphitheater, and it could very properly be erected there if adequate funds



are provided for a fine memorial tablet to be suitably set in the wall.

Another site suggested, to which Colonel Sterritt called attention, is the wall adjacent to the steps at the entrance to the Memorial Rooms. The Commission felt that this location would be suitable for an appropriate tablet. The Commission suggested that if the inscription is not too long it might be carved on one of the pilasters of the Amphitheater. Colonel Sterritt said the matter is in the hands of the G. A. R. for the present, as the tablet must be provided without expense to the War Department.

10. **CHIEF, ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY:** In accordance with the Act of March 4, 1901 (Public No. 387, 56th Congress), creating the Arlington Amphitheater Commission, Colonel Sterritt requested advice of the Commission with reference to the crypt adjacent to the Amphitheater, which has been left in an unfinished state since the dedication of the Amphitheater on May 15, 1902. Colonel Sterritt said the time has come when the War Department should begin to consider placing bodies in the crypt, as contemplated by the Act, but that he did not know to what extent the crypt should be completed. He said thus far the body of only one American hero has been considered for the crypt, complying with the requirements of the Act, and that is the body of Major Walter Reed, discoverer of the yellow fever germ.

The Commission inspected the crypt and advised that, instead of the existing brick surface, the walls should have a marble surface the same as the rest of the Amphitheater, including the entrance to the crypt. Attention was called to the crypt of the Rathbone in Paris and the crypt of St. Paul's in London, which are places highly revered by the French and English people.

11. **FIRST DIVISION CHIEF:** Under date of August 18, 1906, the Commission received the following letter from Major W. D. Grant 50, Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks, asking advice as to filling in the gaps of the Lodge

'About the First Division Memorial:

"I have received a request from Mr. John Gilbert, Architect for the First Division Memorial Association, transmitting a request of the Executive Committee for permission to fill in the gaps in the private hedge surrounding the First Division Monument, which stands before the south front of the State, War and Navy Building. Search through the records of this office files to show that the gaps in the hedge ever had the approval of your Commission.

There appears to be no reason why permission should not be granted for filling these gaps and making the hedge continuous except at the back of the monument; but I hesitate to grant the request without asking your views.

In case the records of your Commission show definitely that the Commission has in the past approved a continuous hedge, it appears that it would be unnecessary for a meeting of the Commission to act on this subject."

The Secretary stated that he informed Major Grant by letter of August 23, 1926, that--"under date of February 21, 1925, the Commission of Fine Arts wrote to the Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds on the subject, as follows:

"It is understood by this Commission that when the monument is erected there will be a hedge about the pavement, which will relate the monument to the landscape, so that the monument will receive a good setting, and that this hedge will be furnished by the First Division."

The Commission inspected the Memorial in the afternoon and decided that in their opinion the gaps in the hedge might properly be filled.

Consideration was given to the landscape setting of the Memorial and emphasis was laid on the importance of having the Memorial fit into the adjacent park area at the head of the vista down to B Street and relate the Memorial to the Plan of 1901. It was thought that it would be necessary to raise 12 trees in the immediate vicinity a few feet. The Commission recommended that the bridge path on the north side of the Memorial be eliminated, and if necessary have it extend along Seventeenth Street. The slope of the terrace from the Memorial would be suggested by the cheeks of the granite steps. (Exhibit F).

12. BATHING POOLS, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Under date of August 24, 1926, Major Grant resubmitted the question of location of Bathing Pools in the

District of Columbia by letter, as follows:

"At its meeting of August 31st, 1936, the National Capital Park and Planning Commission recommended the location of the two bathing pools authorized by the Act of Congress approved May 4, 1936, as follows:

A pool for white people in the grounds of the new McKinley Technical High School, 2nd and T Streets, N.W.;

A pool for colored people on the land of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway near the new Junior High School, at 24th and W Streets, N.W.

This decision was reached after considering a report made on the subject by the Executive and Disbursing Officers and another report made by the Coordinating Committee, both of which are appended herewith.

The action was in conformity with a general policy adopted by the Commission at its meeting on June 18th in the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission advocate a distributed system of bathing pools, to be located in proximity to the various centers of population in connection with other recreational facilities, rather than concentrate on the large municipal pools involving long transportation; and that the Commission favor the location of the bathing pools authorized by Act of May 4, 1936, in accordance with this principle of the first unit in a distributed system. Further study is necessary to determine the two locations for the pools are indicated, which study the Commission will undertake at once."

It is noted that the Commission on Fine Arts had previously tentatively approved the sites in Potomac Park recommended by the Executive and Disbursing Officers and that a reconsideration of this action is needed in order to bring the recommendation of the Commission on Fine Arts in harmony with that of the Planning Commission.

The smaller pools recommended by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission will evidently not cost the full amount authorized in the Act approved May 4, 1936. The Commission, therefore, proposes to recommend legislation which will permit the construction of other small units in other places. As this legislation should be introduced early at the next session of Congress, and time further study will be needed before it can be drafted as well as the preparation of estimates of cost of the various pools, early action by your Commission will be very much appreciated."

Major Grant, who was present during the discussion, was informed that

earlier in the day the Commission had conferred with Mr. H. H. H. H., the Municipal Architect, the location of the proposed bathing pool in the grounds of the new McKinley National Training High School, at Second and T Streets, N.W., and endorsed the location of a pool there; that his attention was called to the bathing pool

at the Columbia Country Club is a fine type of pool of medium size, which had been built by The Hasbrouck Co., 299 Madison Avenue, New York City. Mr. Harrell said he had seen it.

Major Grant said the Park and Planning Commission felt that pools measuring 150' by 75' would be of the proper size for pools to be located in different parts of the city, as the Commission of Fine Arts had recommended in the Spring of this year.

The Commission approved the location of the proposed bathing pool at 24th and N Streets, N.W., adjacent to the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, since the border road is to be omitted, in accordance with a recommendation of Mr. Blasted. It was thought these separate pools can be built for \$50,000 each.

The Commission considered and endorsed the location of additional pools suggested in the report of the Coordinating Committee of the Park and Planning Commission, to which Major Grant called attention, as follows:

For white people: In East Potomac Park; in Anacostia Park, Section D; at the MacFarland School; at the Burroughs School in Brookland.

For colored people: In Anacostia Park, Section C; at or near the Cardozo School, at First and I Streets, S.W.

Mr. Moore urged the construction of a bathing pool in connection with the new field house in Section D, Anacostia Park, and said a recreation center should be provided for the colored people in Section C, Anacostia Park. report was submitted to Major Grant (Exhibit G).

13. COAST GUARD MEMORIAL: The secretary reported that the Coast Guard Committee War Memorial/had advised they would submit a design for their memorial at the next meeting of the Commission.

14. PUBLIC BUILDINGS PROGRAM, LOCATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MINUTES: Under date of July 7, 1936, the Public Buildings Commission referred the following letter, addressed to them by Hon. W. L. Jardine, Secretary of

Agriculture, to the Commission of Fine Arts, for advice as to a proposed plan to erect an additional Department building on the Mall:

July 3, 1926

Hon. Reed Smoot, Chairman,
Public Buildings Commission,
United States Senate.

Dear Senator Smoot:

A definite decision apparently has been reached by the Public Buildings Commission that the areas in the Department of Agriculture grounds fronting on B Street are to be utilized for the erection of a building for one of the other Departments.

The people in the Department of Agriculture have long hoped and anticipated that a building to house their own outlying activities would be erected on this site. These grounds have been in the occupancy of this Department for upwards of sixty-five years, and within the last few years recommendations have been made by the Secretaries of Agriculture for the erection thereon of a suitable building to accommodate this Department.

It is not my desire or my feeling to protect the decision of the Public Buildings Commission in this matter. The workers in the Department of Agriculture, who have long looked forward to a new home on this site, were not aware of this decision until reports were read in the newspapers. It seems to me that an opportunity should have been given the Department of Agriculture to have laid before the proper authorities its recommendations as might have had a bearing on the utilization of these grounds. No such opportunity was accorded the Department of Agriculture, and naturally the Department workers feel considerable regret at the course which apparently has been pursued by those in authority. It seems to me that this action is not conducive to promoting that spirit of cooperation and coordination in the conduct of the affairs of the Executive Departments of the Government which should be promoted upon all occasions.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) W. H. Jardine,
Secretary.

The Commission considered the matter very carefully. Major Grant took part in the discussion and called attention to the fact that the greenhouses of the Agricultural Department are now on the north side of the Mall; that the Secretary of Commerce proposes to have his new building located there, but that the Agricultural Department protests against taking away from it any part of the land on that side of the Mall. The Secretary of Commerce desires a building 300 feet long and 350 feet wide, which will house all his activities excepting the

Bureau of Standards. Major Grant said the Public Buildings Commission is to meet early in October and the views of the Commission of Fine Arts are desired as soon as possible in this matter. Attention was called to reports in Washington newspapers recently to the effect that the President is opposed to erecting a Department of Commerce building on the Mall. Mr. Madary said the proposed building would be perfectly colonial. It would cause great congestion of traffic.

The Commission considered the buildings that have been located along the Mall in accordance with the Mall Plan, as the National Museum, the Grand Gallery, the George Washington Memorial, and the Agricultural Department building, and emphasized the fact that the buildings along the Mall are to be of the "Lincoln" type, which shall not affect traffic conditions; that also a site for the Arts and Industry Building, additional units for the Smithsonian Institution, and a location for the National Gallery of Art, which are the proper type of buildings for the Mall, have been asked for and their location is contemplated soon.

Mr. Madary said the proper site for the Department of Commerce building is at the site designated by Congress in 1906, in the block between 14th and 15th Streets, south of Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.; that it could be built in light, suitable, harmonized with the other buildings on the Mall, as the Louvre in Paris. Mr. Moore stated that the grade of 15th Street has been fixed, and also the new Washington Monument Gardens, which will be slightly higher than Potomac. The Agricultural Department building is now 8 feet below grade, but this will be adjusted when the Mall is developed. The height of the building along 15th Street at Pennsylvania Avenue should be determined by the cornice of the Treasury Department building.

Mr. Madary asked if it is proposed to dig a street under the Mall, and Mr. Moore replied, No; that the Public Commission of 1901 thought the flow of traffic across the Mall would be interfering in its use. The Commission objected to the idea of giving any Department of the Government the prominent site on the Mall.

Major Grant said that there might be objection to locating the Department of Commerce building north of B Street, between 14th and 15th Streets, as it would require vacating a building occupied by the Census Bureau. Mr. Moore suggested that the people in that building be moved to the temporary "hotel" buildings on Union Station Plaza.

As to a building which would house all the Bureaus of the Department of Commerce (excepting the Bureau of Standards) the Commission said several of these Bureaus are such that are apt to expand into Departments in the coming years and they would be better located in a place where they can expand. Thus the Bureau of Mines (for which the present Interior Department building was originally planned, in connection with the Geological Survey), might possibly be better located some distance out of the city, as the Bureau of Standards; any machinery in the Bureau of Mines would in itself increase the weight of floors otherwise intended simply for an office building, and that increase its cost. The Bureau of Fisheries should in time have an Aquarium, and this might be located along the Anacostia Park. As for the Patent Office, it is very well located now in one of the best buildings of the city, at 9th and F Streets, conveniently near to the offices of many patent attorneys. The Commission felt that the Department of Commerce proper was rather an establishment of the Government that collects data as to commercial products for the use of manufacturers and the commercial public generally, and therefore should not require a building of such enormous proportions.

The Commission also felt the importance of carrying out the wishes of Congress in this matter of locating the new public buildings, and called attention to the fact that Congress requires especially to clear up the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue west of Maryland Avenue to 15th Street, and that now is the time to begin on it. It was noted that the site at Pennsylvania Avenue and

Fifteenth Street had been assigned to the Department of Justice, in accordance with an Act of Congress of 1906, and the Public Buildings Report of 1917; but the Commission felt that the Department of Commerce could well be located at that point and the Department of Justice given a site on the square between 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 6th Streets, N.W., where it would be along Pennsylvania Avenue and adjacent to the Mall.

As for other public buildings to be provided there were mentioned the Department of Labor, Interstate Commerce Commission, Civil Service Commission, Railroad Administration, and several Independent Establishments of the Government. The Commission again expressed the desirability of having a plan for the entire group of buildings contemplated on the triangle bounded by First Street and Maryland Avenue, Pennsylvania Avenue, 15th, and B Streets, Northwest.

The Commission also considered with Major Grant the proposed location of the Market, concerning which there has been much controversy recently because of the necessity to remove the Farmers' Market from its present location along B Street, between 10th and 11th Streets, to provide a site for the Internal Revenue Building. Major Grant said he could not say where the Market should go, but felt it should be relocated farther north from its present location so as to be more conveniently situated to the residents of the city. In time he thought there would not be great need for a Center Market, in view of the numerous other markets now in different parts of the city and the possibility of establishing additional markets in the future; he felt that if the Farmers' Market were removed from the Center Market there would be still less need for the latter. But this still leaves the question of location of a Wholesale Market.

Mr. Moore said the Commission had a few years ago considered the location of a Wholesale Terminal with the National Fruit Company, of Washington, who sent their representative to the Commission for advice, and it was thought then a proper

location for it would be east of the Bureau of Engineering and Printing, where it would be adjacent to the water front and the railroad, and that the wholesale dealers thought favorably of the location, but that the high price of the land prevented its purchase at the time. Mr. Moore said the great bulk of the produce for Washington comes by railroad and that provision should be made for the convenient handling of it, and storage, without the necessity of increasing the prices unnecessarily through drayage. A Wholesale Market at that location would also be near to the Fish Market, which is already located on the Washington Channel. The Wholesale Market, Mr. Moore said, should be located along the water front of Washington, as they are in other great ports of the world.

The Commission considered the project to complete the central portion of the new Agricultural Department building on the Mall, and decided that the central portion should be completed with the dome, according to the approved plans,--to omit the dome would mar the appearance of the building. The Commission said that the rotunda, provided for by the dome, gives room for proper display of plants, as desired by the Agricultural Department, and would as such be in the interests of the great agricultural interests of the country. Mr. Moore said the architects are willing to complete the building with the dome, as specified in their plans. The Commission advised that additional buildings for that Department can be built south of the new Agricultural Department building. Major Grant then withdrew from the meeting. The Commission thereupon

considered finally the question of location of the Department of Commerce building and decided that no Department building should be located on the north side of the Mall. The Commission also decided that the Department of Commerce building should be located in the spot designated by Congress, on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue to B Street, between 14th and 15th Streets, N.W.; that the first unit should be built at 15th and Pennsylvania Avenue; and that

the Department of Justice building should be located on Pennsylvania Avenue between 4th and 6th Streets, N.W. A report was made to the Public Buildings Commission (Exhibit H).

The Commission had as their guests at luncheon Mr. W. W. Parsons, Architect, of Chicago; Major W. C. Grant 3d, Executive Officer, Mr. Fred C. Coldren, Secretary, Mr. Charles W. Elliot 3d, City Planner, of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Mr. Louis Simon, Office of the Supervising Architect, Mr. A. D. Cammerer, Assistant Director, National Park Service, and Mr. Francis P. Farquhar, of San Francisco.

The Commission returned to their rooms at 5:00 p.m., after the inspection trip to the Nepele Memorial and to Arlington, and resumed the session. The Commission adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

0001

September 20, 1936.

Dear Colonel MacVicker:

In these days of proper economy in the expenditure of Government money, the Commission of Fine Arts respectfully calls your attention to some economies that can be effected in respect to the monument to Lieutenant John Fitch, at Bardonia, Kentucky. If the monument shall be erected according to the design sent to this Commission, the Government money will be wasted, for the sufficient reason that an elaborate stone frame will be erected to carry a tablet that in the course of two years will become simply a black spot, dripping dark streaks over the stone below it. The tablet will look like a postage stamp or a letter. It will suggest that at the next opportunity the tablet may be easily taken down and another substituted in its place. The tablet itself is too much like a picture-book and the pictures are not skilfully done. As a result the whole monument will become uninteresting and so will defeat the purpose of the persons who obtained the appropriation from Congress.

On the other hand, if the stone frame as designed shall be used and if a simple, dignified, straight-forward inscription shall be cut in the stone, the great purpose of the monument will be accomplished, and it will stand as long as stone can stand in our climate as a memorial to a great inventor. If it is desired to cut into the stone a medallion bearing the head of Fitch that can be done with propriety. The medallion and the inscription together will make a noble monument, lasting and interesting.

The design is herewith returned.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,
Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Colonel Winford MacVicker,
The Assistant Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A.

September 20, 1916.

Dear General Chestnut:

In the letter of the Department to John Adams and John Quincy Adams, at Quincy, Massachusetts, the Commission authorized that it is desirous to get the work under contract working the provisions of the Appropriation. The sculptor selected, Mr. Bruce W. Seville, is known to the Commission as an artist entirely capable of carrying out a fine design, and if a contract shall be made with him to prepare a design satisfactory to the Commission of Fine Arts there will be no difficulty in reaching a good result.

In regard to the design submitted, the Commission is seriously opposed to the boulder, which is a novel form quite contrary to the such formal gentlemen as the Museum. The stone should have an architectural form and if the sculptor should arrange to treat the material matter altogether in stone, the Commission believe he will attain a result more coloring than the one he proposed in this sketch.

The sketch and the correspondence are herewith returned.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major General B. C. Chestnut,
The Quartermaster General,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B.

EXHIBIT B

COLY

September 18, 1936.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on September 18, 1936, inspected the Meade Memorial, as requested by you. The Commission found that progress is being made in the development of the grounds about the Memorial; but until this work is complete and the fountain removed, the Commission is decidedly opposed to the dedication of the Memorial. The experience in the matter of dedicating the Grant Memorial will yet the landscape setting is unfinished is a sufficient reason in this respect.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Dyer,

Chairman.

EXHIBIT C.

Major W. S. Grant, Jr.,
Executive Officer,
Meade Memorial Commission,
Washington, D. C.

COPY

September 25, 1936.

My Dear Mr. Lindgren:

Following the conference you had with the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in September 14th, the Commission regret to have to say to you that none of the suggestions in regard to curb flagpoles meet the requirements. The Commission therefore disapprove all the samples and suggest a entirely new line of action. The object which the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars sought to attain is a worthy one. The end, however, must be reached in a different way.

The flag flown from a pole placed near the curb is ineffective. The multiplicity of objects on the street, the interference of vehicles along the curb, the slenderness of the pole, the small size of the flag, all tend to defeat the object in view. What you are seeking is an effective decoration of the street on patriotic occasions. The Commission suggest that you take up this matter with your person who is proficient in the art of pageantry, and have him make a study of it. Then you will be in a position to carry out in an effective manner the ideal which you cherish. The projects thus far presented are merely weak and ineffective.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman

Mr. Norman B. Lindgren,
Chairman, Joint Committee
American Legion and
Veterans of Foreign Wars,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT D.

EXHIBIT D



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

September 13, 1926

X INTERNAL REVENUE BLDG.
X ARCHIVES BLDG.
X CENTRAL POWER PLANT
RECEIVED
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
1926

CHIEF OF SUPERVISING ARCHITECT

REPLYING, QUOTE THE ABOVE SUBJECT, BUILDING, AND THESE LETTERS SA- ME

Mr. Charles Moore,
Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Your letter of July 29th addressed to Major U. S. Grant, 3rd, Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, in regard to a central heating, lighting and power plant to serve the new buildings to be erected in Washington, forming part of the new Public Buildings program has been referred to this office by Major Grant for consideration and reply.

Shortly after the war an analysis was made by this office as to whether in view of the enormous advance in the cost of labor and material it would be economical to proceed with the construction of the Central Heating, Lighting, and Power Plant, and the conclusion was that the project was no longer an economical proposition. Since the passage of the Public Buildings Act this office has again considered the proposition and has reached the same conclusion, particularly in regard to the supply of electric current.

The very favorable rates quoted by the Potomac Electric Power Company for high tension electric current for power and light render an isolated electric generating plant uneconomical and it is advisable to purchase high tension alternating current and transform it to low tension alternating current for use in the various buildings; for the minor amount of direct current demanded for special services a small motor generator apparatus could be installed.

COMMERCE DEPT.
X INTERNAL REVENUE BLDG.
X ARCHIVES BLDG.
X CENTRAL POWER PLANT

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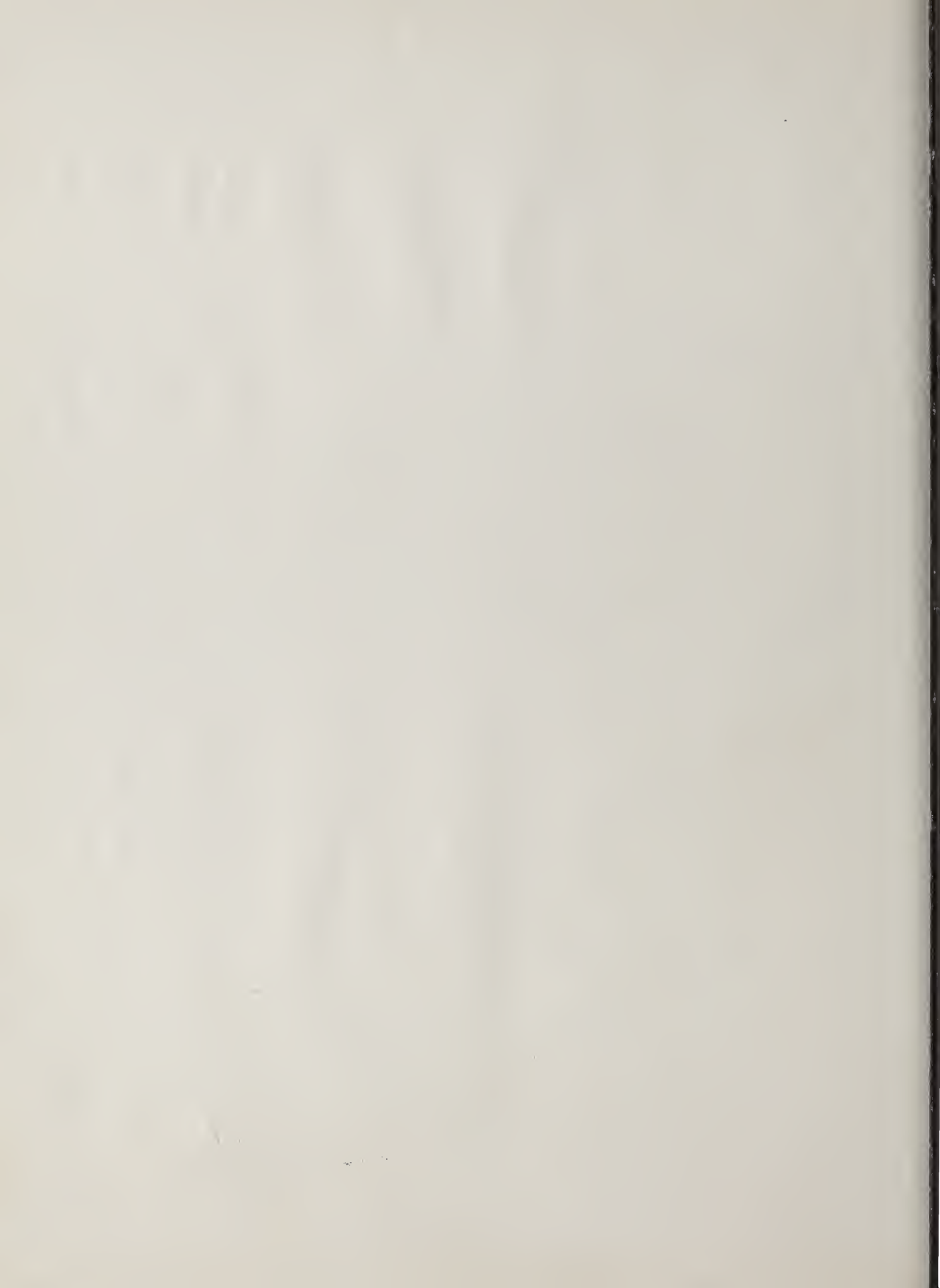
The proposition has, therefore, become one of a plant for heating alone, and the loss in long steam transmission lines, coupled with the heavy interest, depreciation and repair charges on such lines, would make a central plant of this character less economical than it would be to heat a small group of buildings, located relatively close together, from a plant located within one of the buildings.

The sites selected for the new buildings covered by the present legislation divide themselves into two groups. The buildings of each group are located close together, and it is, therefore, proposed to install within one of the buildings in each group a heating plant of approximately 3,000 horsepower to care for the group, thus obviating the loss and maintenance cost of long transmission lines above referred to. Each of these plants will be large enough to obtain an efficiency in steam generation very nearly equal to that which could be obtained with a plant many times their size.

In appearance we believe this scheme will be more satisfactory to the Commission of Fine Arts, because the stacks, over which there was so much controversy at the time the previous Central Heating, Lighting and Power Plant was started will not be so large or conspicuous as those which would be required for a single plant, the buildings in which the plants would be installed being considerably higher and of greater mass than a single central plant building.

Referring to the present tunnel system, etc., under the original contract for a Central Heating, Lighting, and Power Plant, about which you make inquiry, I have to advise that about 80 per cent of the tunnels were constructed, and considerable material was delivered and stored on the site. All this material, together with such piping as had actually been installed in the tunnels, has been sold or distributed to other Government activities which could make use of it. At the time of the last inspection certain parts of the tunnels were partly filled with water, but were otherwise in good condition. There was also installed a portion of the terra cotta duct system to receive electric cables.

To construct one central plant for heating only to care for all of the existing buildings, together with the new buildings, including the purchase of a suitable site for such a plant, would cost not less than \$2,500,000. To construct a central heating plant to handle the two groups



Mr. Charles Moore

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COMMERCE DEPT.
X INTERNAL REVENUE BLDG.
X ARCHIVES BLDG.
X CENTRAL POWER PLANT

----- 9-13-26 -----

of new buildings alone would cost about \$1,350,000. To install two plants, each within one of the buildings of the two groups, as hereinbefore described, would cost approximately \$600,000.

If it is considered advisable to make a further study of the economic wisdom of building a large central power plant to serve with steam and electricity all the buildings contemplated by the previous legislation as well as the new buildings to be erected under the new Public Buildings program it is suggested that the matter be referred to the same committee which is now considering the question of supplying all the said buildings with electricity for power and light from the Navy Yard plant.

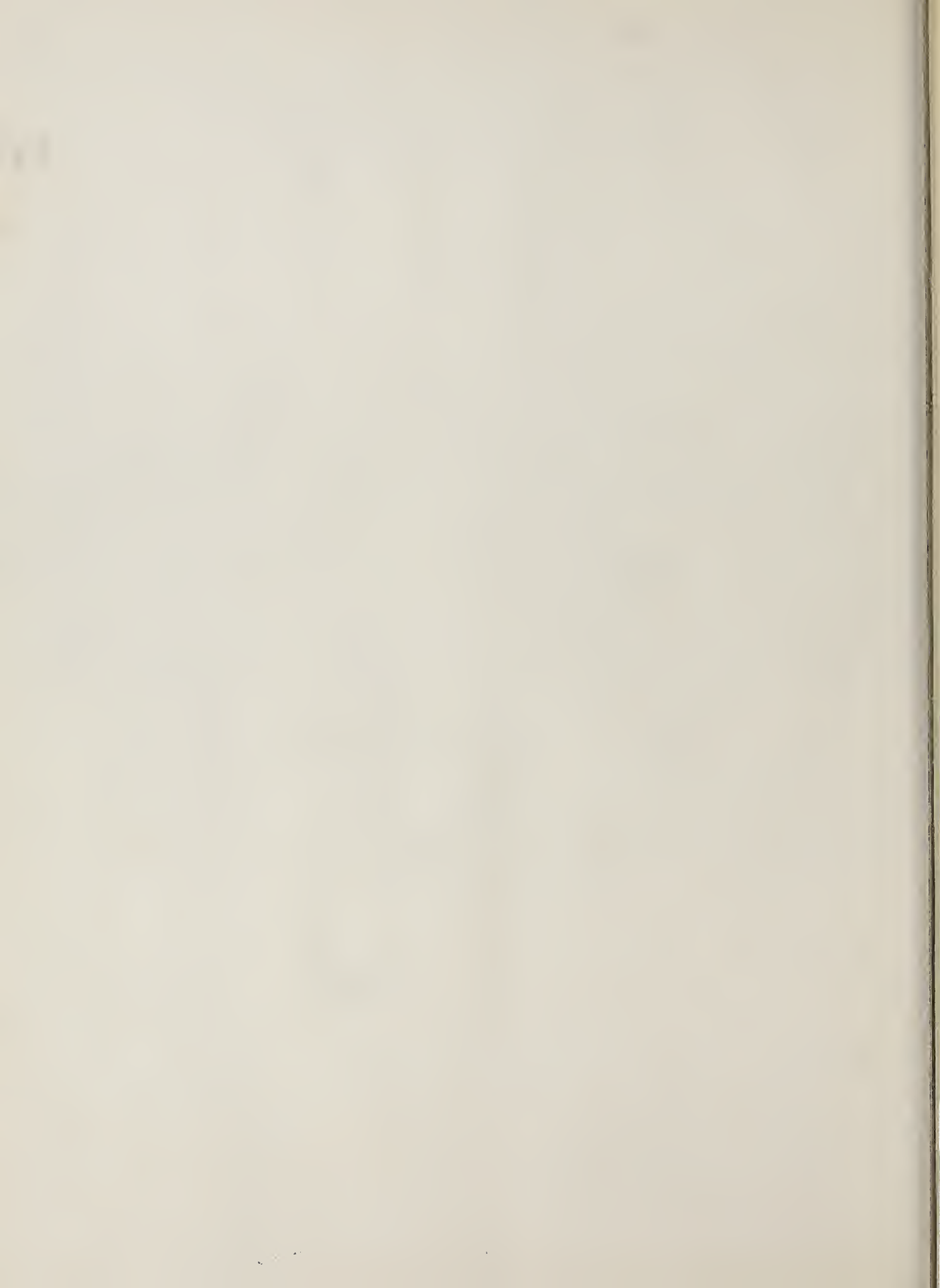
There is transmitted herewith copy of letter of the Secretary of the Treasury, of July 13, 1921, printed as House Document #102, which supplies detailed information of the status of the Central Heating, Lighting and Power Plant, and submits for consideration several schemes for modified plants. No action was taken by Congress.

The power plant of the Potomac Electric Power Company located at Fourteenth and B Streets, N. W., is obsolete and uneconomical and should not be taken over unless it is modernized.

Respectfully,

Jas. A. Wimmer
Acting Supervising Architect.

EX-1817 E



COPY

September 22, 1926.

Dear Major Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on September 16, 1926, inspected with you the grounds of the First Division Memorial, and considered the question of filling the gaps in the hedge surrounding the monument. The Commission suggest that this be done.

The Commission feel that the grounds about the First Division Memorial can be greatly improved by providing a simple graded slope from the existing pavement of the monument, which will gradually fade off into the natural surface. The cheeks of the granite steps suggest the slope from the monument. It will be necessary to raise the trees in the immediate vicinity a few feet accordingly. In this connection the Commission wish to call attention to the letters addressed to your Office on January 19 and April 25, 1925, on this subject. The bridle path should be removed from the north side of the monument, and may be made to extend along Seventeenth Street.

With these changes in the general treatment of the area about the First Division Memorial, the monument will be properly related to the Plan of 1901, at the head of the vista leading from B Street and the Monument Grounds.

For the Commission:

Very Respectfully, yours,

Charles Dyer,

Chairman.

P. S. General Sumner will loan a table to the Commission on the money side.

C.M.

Major W. E. Grant, Jr., Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital.

EXHIBIT F.

Exhibit F

COPY

September 26, 1936.

Dear Major Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on September 16th discussed with you personally the question of bathing pools for the District of Columbia. That discussion developed the fact that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts have reached a substantial agreement in the general principles for the construction of bathing pools in the District; namely, that the pools should be located with reference to centers of population, that many small pools are to be preferred to two large pools, and that wherever possible pools should be developed in connection with recreation centers.

The site suggested at 24th and W Street for a colored bathing pool meets the approval of this Commission. The location of a pool in the McKinley Technical High School grounds, at Second and T Streets, N.W., is also approved. The Commission approves the location of additional bathing pools at sites recommended by your Coordinating Committee:

For white people: In East Potomac Park; in Anacostia Park, Section B; at the Washington School; at the Paragon School in Brookland.

For colored people: In Anacostia Park, Section C; at or near the Cardona School, at First and I Streets, S.W.

This Commission has noted with regret a tendency to locate swimming courts, ball fields and the like, open spaces in West Potomac Park, the M'Pherson Grounds, and the White Tor, while the great spaces yet vacant in the sport part of the city remain undeveloped. The area set apart for ball fields and tennis courts in East Potomac Park may now be developed, since the temporary war buildings have been removed from that location. The Field House, under construction, is still incomplete. It should be finished and a recreational center provided, together with bathing facilities, as shown on the plan. Such a development will lead naturally to the construction of a pool commensurate with the sports provided for in this area, preferably where it can be partially enclosed by the railroad embankment.

There is great need for a pool for colored people in the area south of the Capitol, especially along the line of the old River Creek Canal. That is a section of the city where the needs of the colored population have been neglected for a quarter of a century, and it is recognized by a large, compactly housed population.

There is a small swimming pool in the colored playground south of the Freedmen's Hospital in the midst of the most densely colored population in the city. Either this pool should be enlarged or a new and more adequate pool should be constructed in the immediate vicinity.

The Commission believes that there should be a colored recreation center developed in the Anacostia Park area. A swimming pool should be provided in connection therewith. In the white recreation center in the Anacostia Park, between the Anacostia and the Paragon schools, where the Field House is already completed and the necessary facilities for a bathing pool in connection with this center. The pool itself should be constructed at the earliest possible date.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully,
Charles Moore

Major H. C. Grant, Executive
Planning Officer, National Capital Park
Planning Commission, Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT G.

COPY

October 2, 1926.

Dear Senator Smoot:

Your communication of July 7th, enclosing a letter addressed to you as Chairman of the Public Buildings Commission by the Honorable the Secretary of Agriculture, was received. You ask the comments of the Commission of Fine Arts on the Secretary's letter.

Secretary Jardine is opposed to the erection of the building for the Department of Commerce in the area on the north side of the Mall, opposite the Department of Agriculture. He states that the workers in the Department of Agriculture have long looked forward to a new home on that site, and he asks that the Department of Agriculture have opportunity to lay before the proper authorities its recommendations as to the utilization of these grounds.

After conferences with Secretary Jardine, the Commission of Fine Arts has reached these conclusions:

1. That the Mall area in question should not be allotted to any departmental building, but should be reserved for a building of the museum type, which can be kept down to a height uniform with other buildings in the Mall and can have those landscape features essential to park buildings. This would preclude its use for the Department of Agriculture, as well as for the Department of Commerce.

2. The Commission of Fine Arts was of the opinion that the Department of Commerce building should be located as provided by Congress, in the area between Fourteenth and Fifteenth Streets, Pennsylvania Avenue and B Street, Northwest.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Reed Smoot, Chairman,
Public Buildings Commission,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT H.

